
MEETING	DRINGHOUSES & WOODTHORPE WARD COMMITTEE
DATE	2 MAY 2013
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS HODGSON, REID AND SEMLYEN KAY BAILEY, NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGER RACHEL STEWART, STREET ENVT GILLIAN HODGES, LIBRARIES TOM HORNER, SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT RUTH STEPHENSON, SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE 26 RESIDENTS

1. DROP-IN

Prior to the start of the formal meeting, residents had the opportunity to speak to the Ward Councillors, the Street Environment Officer and the Neighbourhood Manager . A representative was also present to provide information on the proposal to introduce 20-mile per hour speed limits; and Gillian Hodges attended to provide information on the proposal to transfer the libraries and archives service into a community benefit society, Family Information Service and information on personal budgeting and money advice.

2. MINUTES

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Dringhouses & Woodthorpe Ward Committee held on 11 June 2012 be approved and signed as a correct record.

A resident asked why the Informal meeting from October 2012 was not minuted (although acknowledged that it had been explained before hand that minutes would not be taken). A suggestion was made from the floor for a volunteer to take minutes at future meetings. In response: Councillor Hodgson said that they will look into this and feedback at the next meeting.

3. REPORT FROM THE POLICING TEAM

Cllr Hodgson read out PC Jon Bostwick's report in his absence:

Crime figures

As can be seen in the attached document, our ward compares very well to other wards in the city. Crime on our ward overall went down by **26%** from year 2011-12 to 2012-13. This compares to York West reduction of 17% and York total of 12%. Our neighbours Westfield ward only reduced by 9%. Another pleasing result was the Burglary figure. An excellent reduction of **50%**, therefore half the number of victims of burglary on our ward.

Operation Liberal

Doorstep traders offering to clear your guttering or gardening services may seem a good idea at the time, but many will attempt to inflate how much they charge or even steal property while on your roof or in your home. Op Liberal is a national awareness of Rogue Traders and opportunist Distraction burglars that call to your home. During a week of action week on Monday 22nd April police and Trading Standards officers made joint patrols dealing with reported Rogue Traders. Local officers have been on the ward handing out crime prevention leaflets and door hangers to elderly or vulnerable residents.

The message is simple.....NOT SURE ? DON'T OPEN THE DOOR.
If you haven't had a visit from our team then please help yourself to a leaflet and door hanger.

Regards,

PC 389 Jon Bostwick

Questions were invited from the floor:

Question: Can we asked for actual figures and not percentages in future

In response- Councillor will ask for this to be provided.

Question: what does 'other' mean on crime figures?

In response: Councillor Reid replied anything that's not on the list.

Question: when was the last person arrested for dropping litter?

In response: Councillor Reid said she would look into it and report at the next meeting.

Response received following the meeting:

Street Environment Service is the team that issues Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) for littering. Fines are £75 reduced to £50 if paid within 10 days of the FPN being issued. As a team we try to do a weekly 2 hour patrol which covers the whole of the city centre and we issued 6 FPNs while on patrol on Thursday 2 May.

We then will focus patrols on problem areas as and when these come up - whether its a complaint that has come in from a member of the public or an area that we are concerned about. In Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Ward as you are aware we have the problem with littering from students at York College. We issue a few FPNs when we patrol at the college but as most of the students we stop are under 18 years old they receive a stopped for littering ticket for their first offence (a letter goes to their home address (and to parents if they are under 16 years old) which they have to sign and send back to us). We can and have issued FPNs to under 18 years if its a second offence or there has been other circumstances which means that we, as officers, has taken the decision to issue a FPN. If someone does not pay their FPN, then we go back to the original offence of dropping litter and we prosecute them (as this is a criminal offence).

Question: a resident informed the meeting that leaflets were being posted through letterboxes advertising for handy man work
In response Councillor Hodgson informed the meeting to report it to PC Jon Bostwick so police are aware.

4. WARD UPDATES INCLUDING 20MPH LIMITS ; MAYFIELDS OPEN SPACE

20mph SPEED LIMITS

Tom Horner was invited to give an update on the 20mph speed limits in the ward.

Question: will residents in 30 mph area will receive information of the 20 mph limits?

In response: All resident's will be aware of the change and where.

Question: How did the figure of 20 mph come about?

In response: Through Government guidance procedures

Question: How effective is the South Bank scheme?

In response: At present due to the road works it has been impossible to monitor however in three weeks' time the monitoring will be complete and the figures will be available eg on twitter and feedback will be given at ward meetings.

Mayfields Open Space

To confirm the current position and the actions taken since the cabinet member decision session last September.

Individual meetings were held (in Nov 2012) with representatives of CRA / MCT and YNET - their respective positions were noted. I attended the 29 Nov ward committee meeting to update.

CRA / MCT have taken the opportunity to respond to the comments on their Management Plan as originally submitted and provided a revised version of the management plan - and highlighted this at the ward committee meeting. Both CRA / MCT and YNET have attended the Nov 21012 ward committee meeting to make statements.

Mary Bailey as Head of Communities and Engagement has assisted by establishing the mediation and initial meetings have drawn out the issues and conflict. CRA / MCT and YNET have agreed to a joint meeting and this has been confirmed for 7 May.

At this stage I feel it would be prejudicial to the mediation process to add anything further or for me to attend the ward committee meeting.

The land is now vested with the council – who necessarily carry ultimately responsibility for its management – formally determining the future management arrangements is important, but should ideally involve all those who have and interest in being involved.

The joint mediation meeting has to be on the basis of no pre-determined outcomes - however the mediators are aware of the context and the 'common ground' which is the long term management of the land for public benefit

A further update will be provided following the joint meeting on 7 May.

5. WARD COMMITTEE'S PRIORITIES 2013-14 - FIND OUT HOW TO BID FOR WARD GRANTS

Cllr Hodgson read out the grants that had been awarded in 2012-13:

The budget of £4,450 was spent on the following grants (AMENDED VERSION):

£580 to Friends of Chapmans Pond

£500 to Monday Bingo Club at Moor Lane Youth Centre

£500 to Friends of Acomb Wood

£1,225 to Woodthorpe After School Club

£1,225 to St Edwards Playgroup

£400 to Dringhouses Dance Group

A grant was allocated to Rising Stars dance group but we were informed that it had ceased to exist so the £500 was split between St Edwards Playgroup and Woodthorpe After School Club.

This has resulted in a £20 underspend.

Question: Asked the councillors to explain the budget as the figures do not add up correctly

In response: Kay Bailey will look into this and will report back at the next meeting planned 4th July (amended version incorporated into these minutes above)

Question: If there is only 19% of young people in the ward why was the grant so large to young peoples projects?

In response: Councillor Semlyen explained it depends a lot on who applies.

The ward priorities for 2013-14 were announced:

A safer thriving community

A cleaner green environment

Opportunities for children and young people

Cllr Hodgson explained that the budget would be allocated to support these priorities in the form of grants. Local groups were invited to take an application pack away and fill it in ASAP.

6. APPOINTMENT OF THE PLANNING PANEL

The current chair Mr Roger Jennings gave a report. The panel meet once a month in St Edward's church hall looking at and commenting on planning applications from the previous month. They have the power to approve/disapprove amend or reject plans and then forward them to City of York Council with recommendations.

At present the panel are looking for new members as they only have 7 members if you're interested please contact Kay with your details. The next meeting is 13th May.

The current members and 3 new members names were announced and put forward as members of the panel for 2013-14. Residents were asked if anyone had any objection to them being on the panel. There were no objections so the members were voted in.

Planning Panel members elected are as follows:

Roger Jennings

Ann Gray

John Parkinson

Ian Tomlinson

Val Plitt

Margaret Silcock

David Munley

Phil Metcalfe

Tom Holvey

7. HAVE YOUR SAY!

Question: The issue of the surface of Cherry Lane was raised as it dangerous.

In response: Councillor Reid informed the meeting if it is the top half of the Lane that is down for repair this year if it's any further down this is a private road and not the responsibility of the Council. She will look into who owns it..

Response was chased up by Cllr Reid after the meeting:

I have contacted a range of Council Officers who have confirmed that:-

- It is not adopted highway, the mapping system does not appear to record this land as part of the Knavesmire property.
- Cherry Lane is not registered with the Land Registry & is indeed not adopted highway or council land.
- The route is not recorded on the Definitive Map, nor is it under investigation as part of our work to compile a Def Map for the former County Borough of York. This does not preclude the possibility of public rights existing that are not yet formally recorded however and on the face of it it looks as though public rights probably do exist as people often use it to get down to the Knavesmire either on foot, cycle and in their cars.
- that public rights requires investigation at some stage: from my own on site survey of the Wards I had already noted this particular route

for investigation at a further stage which leads towards the production of a definitive map for the Former County Borough of York

Question: Who gives permission for events on the Knavesmire in bad weather as its damaging the area? Possibly keep events to summer only. Councillor replied we have no say over weather conditions

Question: Is water pumped on to the Knavesmire to avoid flooding elsewhere? If so by whom? Response: No, it backs up from the river via the Knavesmire culvert.

Question: Once the floodwaters have receded is any cleaning up done of the ground? A resident was told by someone from the Environment Agency was told that it was "dirty" water and therefore children shouldn't walk across the area after the water has gone.

Not that I am aware of, the water is essentially silty river water and will contain little, if any, sewage which is the usual reason for this advice. If it was a risk it would equally apply to adults!

Question: What is the protocol for hiring out the Knavesmire?

In response: When people hire the land, as part of their contract, they undertake to pay for the cost of any repairs. This is the case with regard to the flooding last year and we are currently awaiting the final bill which will be allocated to those involved for payment. They are all more than willing to pay what they owe.

Question: Asked why the trees have been removed on the A59

In response: Councillor informed the meeting that it was to do with the Park and Ride being built.

Question: regarding litter issues could we not adapt the ideas Leeds City Council have which seem to work

In response: Councillor will consider asking someone to come to the next meeting to address this.

Question: A resident wanted to report an issue with smoking at the bus stop in Rougier Street blowing on non-smokers waiting for bus.

In response: Councillor Hodgson will raise this with the Street Environment Officer for that area.

Question: A resident raised the issue of problems with the Council's online reporting system.

In response: Following the meeting Cllr Reid followed this up and the answer has been sent directly to the resident who asked the question.

Question: GULLEY CLEANING IN GOODWOOD GROVE/LINGFIELD CRESCENT AREA

A response was sought by Cllr Reid following the meeting and the response was: The gulleys in Breary Close, Weddell Close, Goodwood Grove and Lingfield Crescent are longer routinely cleaned. The Council's drainage department does carry out private drain cleaning so the vehicle that was seen could have been doing that.

Question: a resident asked why railings were going up around the barwalls what stats there was on injury and what cost to implement this.

In response: Councillor Reid will look into this and report back at next meeting.

Response obtained following meeting:

The decision to install railings on this section of wall was taken as a result of a Health and Safety Audit carried out in 2002. The Audit was carried out by the Council's own H&S advisor. He recommended that railings should be installed as a matter of urgency at three locations on the wall-walk where he considered that a fall could result in a serious or fatal injury. That Audit was carried out before the preparation for a court case that arose after an individual fell from the walls (not at this location) in 2002 and sustained injuries that permanently disabled him. In the end the case did not go to Court and the insurance claim against the Council lapsed. The three priority locations were: the section at the rear of Aldwark between the Merchant Taylors Hall and the rear of the Borthwick Institute (now the New Schoolhouse Gallery); the section between Micklegate Bar and Toft Tower; and the section on Station Rise. The current installation at Station Rise section completes the work required to address the priority areas raised in the 2002 H&S Audit. This work would have been completed far earlier had we been able to secure adequate funding through the CRAM process. The Council has no record of anyone falling from this section of wall-walk at Station Rise. Unlike all other sections of the wall-walk, this section does not have gates on it. We have been unable to close this section of wall when conditions are deemed dangerous and we close the City Walls to the general public. In December 2012 three people slipped on the icy surface on this section of wall-walk and sustained injuries. Fortunately they did not fall from the wall-walk. Two of these have submitted insurance claims. It is now our intention to fit gates to the new railings so that we will be able to close this section of wall both at night and when conditions are considered dangerous. I do not as yet have a final figure for the fabrication and installation of railings on this section of wall. However, I anticipate the cost will be in the region of £35000 - £40000. The total cost of fabrication and installation for all three sections identified in the H&S Audit will be around £120000. To put this in perspective, we were advised during the preparations for the court case arising from the 2002 accident that if the claim was successful we could be liable for damages of up to £3m. If post-Audit someone had fallen from the walls at one of these three locations and sustained serious injuries the Council would have had no defence against claims and might even have been considered negligent. In these circumstances, the Council had no alternative but to install railings.

A resident reported his concern with the treatment given by residents to Ruth Stephenson when she gave a presentation on 20mph limits at the last meeting.

Question: Concern was expressed regarding the remove of the hedging on Little Hob Moor. Can we be that no more of this sort is planned, and to be told in advance of it?

Response: We will seek advice from Council officers on this and report at the next meeting.

Written response following the meeting from Dave Meigh (Head of Parks and Open Spaces):

The Council updates and changes landscapes all the time and this is likely to continue in the future. There are many reasons for this including reflecting national best practice, making way for new planting, changing tastes and available budgets. The removal of the short stretch of hedge and old roses on Tadcaster Road means that both sides of the road now match. It has also opened up the area for future tree planting to succeeded the trees currently there. As a rule we do not inform or discuss work of this limited scope with residents.

We welcome residents' involvement in maintaining / adopting open spaces under the Smarter York initiative. Please get in touch with me if you want to take on the care of a local space.

The Ward Committee asked the residents if they were happy with the format of ward meetings as it was proposed to have a cycle about the ward in July. Residents preferred to have a static meeting on 4 July at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9:10pm .

CLLR G HODGSON, Chair